

These National Urban Search and Rescue Task Force functional courses are usually delivered under contract to the 28 US&R teams. Course materials may be requested by writing to the US&R Program Office at DHS/FEMA, 500 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20472 Attn: Richard Brown.

US&R Technical Search Specialist Training Course:

The primary purpose of this course is to provide functional training to the Task Force members who serve as a Technical Search Specialist on an US&R Task Force. The course objectives are to:

1. Describe the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System within FEMA, including the FEMA US&R Program Office and the US&R Advisory Organization;
2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the Technical Search Specialist;
3. Apply the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards that specifically apply to US&R Operations;
4. Identify safety issues, and categorize common hazards encountered during US&R activities;
5. Identify different types of damaged structures and the hazards most common to damaged structures;
6. Mitigate identified risks to an acceptable level;
7. Demonstrate the Technical Search Specialist's role and responsibilities for functional interaction during deployment and exercises;
8. Identify training course objectives, ground rules, and administrative requirements; and
9. Acknowledge US&R program updates and work group assignments.